United Nations S/PV.5671

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5671 st meeting

Monday, 30 April 2007, 12.10 p.m.

New York

President:	Sir Emyr Jones Parry	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mrs. Asmady
	Italy	Mr. Mantovani
	Panama	Mr. Soler Torrijos
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 9 of Security Council resolution 1744 (2007) (S/2007/204)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-32360 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 9 of Security Council resolution 1744 (2007) (S/2007/204)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mohamed (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/204, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 9 of Security Council resolution 1744 (2007).

After consultation among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reiterates its previous resolutions and presidential statements on Somalia, in particular its resolution 1744 (2007).

"The Security Council reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the renewed fighting in Somalia, deeply deplores the loss of civilian life — condemning in particular the indiscriminate shelling of heavily populated areas of Mogadishu — and the humanitarian impact of the fighting, and calls upon all parties to immediately end the hostilities and agree a comprehensive ceasefire.

"The Security Council emphasizes the need for strengthened efforts to provide humanitarian relief assistance to Somalia, including assistance to the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, and urges Member States to support generously such operations.

"The Security Council demands that all parties in Somalia comply fully with international humanitarian law, protect the civilian population, and guarantee complete, unhindered and secure access for humanitarian assistance. It demands that the relevant authorities do all they can in this regard, in particular to facilitate the free movement of aid and humanitarian workers throughout Somalia and when entering or leaving Somalia. The Council also urges the wider region to help facilitate the cross-border provision of aid to Somalia, across land borders or via air- and sea-ports.

"The Security Council reiterates its support for the political process outlined in the Transitional Federal Charter, which provides a framework for reaching a lasting political solution in Somalia, including the transition to a permanent, representative Government and institutions following national elections at the end of the transitional period.

"The Security Council notes the steps taken since the adoption of its resolution 1744 (2007), welcomes the commitment of the Transitional Federal Institutions to initiate a national reconciliation process, and stresses the need for further progress.

"The Security Council urges Somalia's Transitional Federal Institutions to show leadership and commitment to reach out to all components of Somali society, and in particular to intensify their dialogue with the clans in Mogadishu. It calls on all parties in Somalia, the region and the wider international community to reject violence, to deny safe haven to extremist elements, to pursue any differences they might have with the Transitional Federal Institutions through dialogue, and to summon the political

will to take the necessary steps to allow the Transitional Federal Institutions to deliver a sustainable, all-inclusive political process.

"The Security Council underlines the need for the Transitional Federal Institutions to meet their responsibilities during the transitional period, with particular regard to promoting the widest possible political dialogue across Somalia, and reiterates its commitment to support the Transitional Federal Institutions in those efforts. The Security Council calls on all parties in Somalia and on all Member States to provide such support.

"The Security Council calls on the Transitional Federal Institutions to ensure that the National Reconciliation Congress is convened as soon as possible and is truly representative of all segments of Somali society. The Security Council also calls on all parties in Somalia and other international partners to work towards that end and to ensure constructive participation in the National Reconciliation Congress to pave the way to a sustained and all-inclusive political process.

"The Security Council condemns those who threaten the early convening of the National Reconciliation Congress. The Security Council recognizes the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Advisory Committee, and Member States to support the National Reconciliation Congress, and urges Member States and partners to contribute continued technical and financial support.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, to do what he can to assist in furthering ceasefire arrangements and the political dialogue, especially in Mogadishu.

"The Security Council recalls its readiness, as set out in its resolution 1744 (2007), to consider taking measures against those who seek to prevent or block a peaceful political process, threaten the Transitional Federal Institutions by force, or take action that undermines stability in Somalia or the region.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to report by mid-June on progress towards convening the National Reconciliation Congress and the broader political dialogue, including progress towards a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire arrangement, and on any blockages to progress or threats to the Transitional Federal Institutions.

"The Security Council reiterates that, as set out in its resolution 1744 (2007), full and effective deployment of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) is vital. The Security Council welcomes deployments so far under AMISOM and calls on other potential troop-contributing countries to deploy as soon as possible to AMISOM. It reiterates its call for other States and partners to provide logistical, technical and financial support to ensure the further deployment of AMISOM. The Security Council also welcomes the Secretary-General's offer of planning assistance to the African Union.

"The Security Council emphasizes the contribution of AMISOM to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, condemns any hostility towards it, and urges all parties in Somalia and the region to support and cooperate with AMISOM.

"The Security Council welcomes the Technical Assessment Mission sent by the Secretary-General to Somalia and the region. It requests the Secretary-General to consult the African Union and troop contributors on how to urgently strengthen further AMISOM's capabilities on the ground. It also requests the Secretary-General, as suggested in his report, to immediately begin appropriate contingency planning for a possible United Nations mission, to be deployed if the Security Council decided to authorize such a mission. The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to report by mid-June on this preparatory work, progress in the reconciliation process and developments on the ground, as well as possible scenarios for a continued international security presence in Somalia.

"The Security Council states its intention to review the situation in Somalia following the report described above from the Secretary-

General, with a view to determining whether the conditions are in place for deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/13.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5672

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5672nd meeting

Wednesday, 2 May 2007, 12.10 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Khalilzad	(United States of America)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Spatafora
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry

Agenda

Security Council mission

Briefing by the Head of the Security Council mission on the Kosovo issue

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-32817 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.10 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of May, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of April 2007. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Jones Parry for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

Briefing by the Head of the Security Council mission on the Kosovo issue

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Johan Verbeke, Permanent Representative of Belgium and the head of the Security Council mission on the Kosovo issue.

I would like to welcome the return of the members of the Council and the Secretariat who took part in the mission on the Kosovo issue.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Verbeke, head of the Security Council mission on the Kosovo issue.

Mr. Verbeke (Belgium): It is the usual practice that, shortly after a Security Council mission returns to New York, the head of the mission briefs the Council. I will keep this briefing short. I will not give a comprehensive overview of all the meetings and field trips, but I will focus on some highlights of the mission's visit to the region and share some preliminary observations. Before I start, however, I would like to thank all my colleagues for their cooperation and valuable contribution to the mission. I also would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the Secretariat who accompanied us and played a crucial role both in the preparation and in the execution of the mission.

Let me first of all recall the nature of the mission. As members know, the Security Council, following a suggestion made by our Russian colleague, decided to undertake a mission on the Kosovo issue. The mission was essentially an information mission. As the terms of reference pointed out, "in the light of the recent submission of the United Nations Special Envoy's set of proposals to the Security Council, the Council has decided to give its members the opportunity to inform themselves on the situation on the ground"; the purpose of the mission was "to allow the Security Council to have an informed understanding of the political, social and economic situation in Kosovo", and that through a balanced and comprehensive programme of meetings and field trips.

The mission started with meetings in Brussels on Wednesday, 25 April with the Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer; the European Union's Special Envoy for Status Talks, Stephan Lehne; and European Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn. Their messages were quite similar. For them, the status quo is untenable, expectations are high, and delay in the determination of Kosovo's status could put Kosovo and the region at risk. They also stated their full support for Ahtisaari's recommendations and settlement proposal. From the briefings, it appeared that the both the European Union and NATO are prepared to assume their responsibilities in the framework of Kosovo's future status. Planning is ongoing, but such planning, they insisted, does not prejudge the final outcome of the future status process. During the lunch hosted by the European Union in Pristina, details of that planning process were provided. Finally, the representatives of both organizations stressed that the final decision on the status of Kosovo should be endorsed by a Security Council resolution under Chapter VII.

In Belgrade on Thursday, 26 April, the mission's main interlocutors — President Tadić, Prime Minister Koštunica, members of the negotiating team, the President of the Coordination Centre for Kosovo, and almost all members of the party caucuses — firmly rejected the Kosovo settlement proposal and any solution that would entail any form of independence for Kosovo. Instead, they argued for substantial autonomy of Kosovo within Serbia and under international supervision. They also called for further negotiations. Another recurring theme in our meetings

in Belgrade was the lack of full implementation of resolution 1244 (1999), in particular with regard to the return of internally displaced persons. According to Belgrade's authorities, only 2-5 per cent of internally displaced persons have been able to return since 1999.

The issue of return was also regularly raised during the mission's visit to Kosovo. Its complex nature was further illustrated by field trips to Svinjare and Brestovik. Several reasons were given to explain the limited number of returnees: security concerns, the poor economic situation, the lack of access to social services, as well as procedural obstacles.

In Pristina on Friday, 27 and Saturday, 28 April, the mission had the opportunity to meet with a broad spectrum of actors, both international and local. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Rücker, underlined that the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) had achieved everything that was achievable. It had established Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, rule of law structures and institutions required for a market economy. According to the Special Representative, further progress was dependent on a resolution of Kosovo's status.

That assessment was echoed by the representatives of the Kosovo Unity Team, including President Sejdiu and Prime Minister Çeku. They expressed their unanimous support for the Kosovo settlement proposal and status recommendation, and stressed their commitment to implement the settlement proposal in its entirety. They underlined that Kosovo was committed to a multiethnic State whose goal would be integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. A similar message was expressed by the ministers of the Kosovo Government, Assembly leaders and leaders from minority communities. For Kosovo Serb representatives, however, including Bishop Artemije of the Serbian Orthodox Church and Kosovo Serbs we met with in northern Mitrovica, independence was clearly not an option.

The mission concluded its visit with a meeting with Special Envoy Ahtisaari in Vienna, which gave mission participants the opportunity to have an informal exchange on various aspects of his settlement proposal.

I would like to end with some provisional observations.

First, I think, the mission lived up to its expectations. It did indeed provide its participants with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the situation in Kosovo. As a result, the concrete reality of the Kosovo issue has become clear — more than before — instead of being a rather abstract problem.

Secondly, Kosovo's society is still recovering from the wounds inflicted by the conflict. To a large extent, Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb communities live separately from each other. There are also differences in the way both communities look to the future. While the Kosovo Albanian community is confident, the Kosovo Serb community is more apprehensive about its prospects for the future.

Thirdly, the commitment and readiness conveyed by Kosovo's political leaders to build a multi-ethnic Kosovo for all its communities was encouraging. The creation of such a multi-ethnic society will, however, require substantial effort.

Fourthly, over the years the Provisional Institutions and UNMIK have made significant progress in the implementation of the standards for Kosovo, for example, in establishing Provisional Institutions that are functional and that are founded on the principles of ownership and accountability. The Provisional Institutions expressed their commitment to continue and strengthen the implementation of the standards, in particular those relating to the conditions of life of Kosovo's minority communities.

Fifthly, as regards the critical issue of the return of internally displaced persons, the numbers of sustainable returns continue to be very low. Although structures for return are in place, the lack of economic prospects, difficulties associated with freedom of movement and security-related concerns were mentioned as defining reasons why returns remain limited. Opposing points of view exist on whether a definition of the status of Kosovo would facilitate or hinder the returns process.

Sixthly, with regard to status, the positions of the sides on the Kosovo settlement proposal remain far apart. While the Belgrade authorities and all Kosovo Serb interlocutors remained firmly opposed to the Kosovo settlement proposal and rejected a solution that would entail any form of independence, Kosovo Albanian representatives expressed clear and unambiguous support for the Kosovo settlement proposal and recommendation on Kosovo's future

status. Expectations among the majority Kosovo Albanian population for an early resolution of Kosovo's future status are very high.

Finally, the mission noted the importance stressed by many of promoting a European perspective for the region, including for Kosovo. These European prospects can provide direction for future political and economic development and thus contribute to consolidating stability in Kosovo and, by extension, in the region as a whole.

The President: On behalf of the Securit Council, I would like to thank Ambassador Verbeke fo his able leadership of the mission and for his briefing.

The Security Council has thus concluded th present stage of its consideration of the item on it agenda. The next meeting to discuss the written repo of the mission will be fixed in consultation with th members of the Security Council.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.